GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1485
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
PAYMENT FOR PROCUREMENT OF PADDY
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed the Food Corporation of India to ensure payment to farmers for procurement of their paddy on the same day as is procured by Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of paddy procured and payment made in pursuance of the above policy; and

(c) the targets fixed and achieved for procurement of paddy during 2007-08 and 2008-09?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been directed to ensure prompt payment to farmers. 212.3 lakh tonnes of paddy has been procured in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08 as on 4.3.2008. Farmers are paid the Minimum Support Price plus incentive bonus as applicable by the procuring agencies.

(c): The annual requirement of rice is 250 lakh tonnes for Targeted Public Distribution System and Welfare Schemes. Since procurement by Government agencies (FCI & State agencies) is open ended no targets are fixed. However on the basis of estimates given by State Food Secretaries it is estimated that 276 lakh tones of rice would be procured in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2007-08. As on 4.3.2008, 203.7 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured. KMS 2008-09 will commence on 1.10.2008.